

Motor Vehicle Office To Open Here Next Monday

TOT CRITICALLY BURNED, CLINGS TO LIFE, BROTHER CALLED HERO

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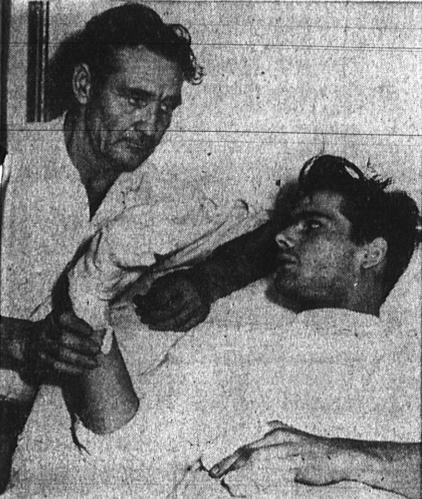
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FATHER OF THREE IS CITY'S FIRST AUTO VICTIM OF '54



FATHER AND HERO . . . Leonard Griffin checks injuries of his son, Reginald Griffin, 19, who crawled on his hands and knees to help his sister, Diana, 5, whose nightgown was ignited by a heater. Reginald is paralyzed from the waist down as the result of a polio attack he suffered when 18 months old.

Polio Victim Crawls To Aid of Sister, 5

A five-year-old girl was clinging grimly to life yesterday afternoon, and if she wins the battle it will be due to the heroic efforts of her 19-year-old brother, a polio victim, who forced his paralyzed body to answer his sister's desperate cries for help after her dress caught fire Monday morning in the family home, at 193rd St. and Western Ave.

Reginald Griffin, who has been paralyzed from the waist down since infancy, awakened Monday morning to see his sister, Diana, engulfed in flames. Her dress had caught fire from an electric heater.

Motor Vehicle Office To Open Monday Morning

Assemblyman Vincent Thomas announced yesterday afternoon that complete auto registration service for Torrance residents would be available to Torrance area residents at the Department of Motor Vehicles' new branch at 1317 Craven Ave. beginning at 8 a.m. next Monday, Jan. 25.

The new branch will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day of the week, Monday through Friday. It will be open on Saturday morning, Jan. 30, only to complete auto registrations, Thomas said.

Assigned as manager of the new office is Leavitt Tudor Jr., who is being transferred here from the Hollywood office. He will have four permanent employees at present.

Autos Only Now
Complete motor vehicle service, including examination for drivers' licenses, will be inaugurated at the branch of Feb. 8, Tudor said. The office will handle only auto registrations until that time.

Assemblyman Thomas, commenting on the new branch of the DMV opening here, said: "The new Torrance office of the DMV is being established after careful study of the needs of the community. It has been clearly shown that a part-time drivers' license service alone is not sufficient. The convenience of Torrance residents is the reason for opening this branch of the department to offer such services on a full-time basis."

The building at 1317 Craven Ave., which is just east of the telephone office between Post Ave. and Esplanade, was leased to the state by Sam Levy.



DONALD E. RICE . . . Moving Up North
C. C. MORGAN . . . New Columbia Boss

New Manager Named For Columbia Steel

C. C. Morgan, assistant general superintendent of the Pittsburgh plant of Columbia-Geneva Steel, has been appointed general superintendent of the Torrance Works to succeed Donald E. Rice who will assume the top job at the Pittsburgh plant, it was announced this week.

Rice has been superintendent here since he succeeded Otto Kresse on his retirement two years ago.

Morgan, who will take over here Feb. 1, graduated from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., in 1933 and started in his career as an industrial engineer with Colum-

Worker's Auto Slams into Tree For First Death

Torrance's first fatal auto accident in 1954 claimed the life of a 33-year old Redondo Beach father of three whose auto slammed into a tree at Del Amo and Hawthorne Ave. early Monday.

Dead was John L. Brekke, of 2610 Ralston Lane, Redondo, whose auto was crumpled against the huge Eucalyptus tree at the accident scarred intersection. Police Officer H. B. Ingram, who investigated the early morning crash, said Brekke apparently went to sleep, allowing the car to zoom out of control. The auto struck the tree with such force that a crowbar was needed to pry the wreckage loose so the victim could be removed. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

An employee of Douglas Aircraft Co., Brekke was enroute to work at the time of the accident, his family reported. He had been a Douglas employee for nearly three years.

Funeral services will be held at the Stone and Myers Chapel here tomorrow afternoon at 2. Rev. Andrew C. Anderson will officiate at the services.

Surviving are his widow, June and three children, Larry, 11; Dewayne, 9; and Joyce, 7.

plant here, has been appointed assistant general manager of operations for the Columbia-Geneva Steel division of United States Steel.



LONELY GRAVE . . . Probing the lonely grave of an unidentified man above Pacific Hills are police officers who were led to the spot by Jimmy Tex Cottrall (upper left). Digging is Sgt. John Maestri, while Detective Sgt. Percy Bennett and Deputy Sheriff William Carlberg inspect part of the grisly find.

Skeleton Found by Hikers Believed to be Oldtimer

The case of the mysterious bones will probably go down in history as just that. The skeleton of a man found above Pacific Hills Saturday evening by Jim Schubert, 9, of 2614 Brian Ave., and Jimmy Cottrall, 16, of South Gate, proved to be nothing recent when police officers dug up most of the remains Sunday morning.

With shovels and hiking boots, Chief Willard Haslam, Sgts. Percy Bennett and John Maestri, and Deputy Sheriff William Carlberg were led into the hills by Cottrall, who had found a man's leg bone and a shoe containing remains of a foot in the hills Saturday evening.

Site Checked
Sergeant Maestri and Reserve Captain William King checked the spot late Saturday but put off digging up the area until daylight Sunday.

Appearance of the bones and of items found with them indicated that the body had been there for many years—possibly as many as 40.

Found were two nickels, one dated 1899, and one dated 1867. Also dug up were a set of false teeth, a wine bottle, an old compass, and the skeleton. No skull, right arm, or right leg were found.

Chief Haslam said yesterday that he would send the bones to the crime lab in the near future to let them see if they could determine anything about them.

"I'm sure it won't solve any crimes that are bothering us," he quipped.



DEATH CAR . . . Auto of John L. Brekke, 33, of Redondo, shows force of impact which took his life here early Monday. The death of Brekke was the first on Torrance streets during 1954.



REMAINS INSPECTED . . . Acting Police Chief Willard H. Haslam inspects the human bones and compass found by hiking boys above Pacific Hills Saturday evening.